

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

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FOLLOWING REPEAT BERLIN 6415 SENT SECSTATE INFO BONN LISBON
LONDON MOSCOW PARIS USBERLIN NATO DATED SEPT 20.

QUOTE

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E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: PFOR, GE, PO

SUBJECT: EAST GERMAN PRESS ON PORTUGAL--AND CHILE

1. THE EAST GERMAN PRESS HAS FOR SEVERAL WEEKS DEVOTED
CONSIDERABLE SPACE TO EVENTS IN PORTUGAL. THIS COVERAGE
HAS PREDICTABLY FAVORED THE COMMUNIST SIDE AND FREQUENTLY
LAUDS PKF LEADER CUNHAL.

2. MORE RECENTLY, THE GDR PRESS HAS TENDED TO CRITICIZE
PORTUGUESE LEADER SOARES, PARTICULARLY FOR HIS VISITS
TO LONDON (WHERE A SOCIALIST COMMITTEE OF
SOLIDARITY WITH THE PORTUGUESE SOCIALISTS WAS FORMED)
AND TO BONN, WHERE HE REPORTEDLY MET WITH THE SPD FEDERAL
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE. IT HAS NOT ESCAPED NOTICE HERE THAT
SPD PARTY LEADER WILLI BRANDT WAS ELECTED CHAIRMAN OF THE
SOLIDARITY COMMITTEE IN LONDON.

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3. THE PRESS ON SEPT. 17 INDICATED CUNHAL'S ACCEPTANCE

OF THE ATTEMPT BY ADMIRAL PINHERIO DE AZEVEDO TO FORM A NEW GOVERNMENT. CUNHAL'S STATEMENT AS REPORTED HERE IS THAT UNDER PRESENT EMERGENCY CONDITIONS AND THE CURRENT POLITICAL SITUATION IN PORTUGAL, THE PROGRAM OF ADMIRAL AZEVEDO IS REALISTIC AND CAN LEAD TO THE GUARANTEEING OF FREEDOM AND THE SUCCESSES OF THE REVOLUTION THUS FAR.

4. IN THE PAST, THERE HAVE BEEN CONSIDERED ATTEMPT BY THE EAST GERMAN MEDIA TO LINK THE "DANGEROUS" SITUATION IN PORTUGAL WITH THE CURRENT SITUATION IN CHILE. IN THIS CONNECTION, THE PRESS HAS REPEATEDLY REFERRED TO THE POSSIBLE DANGER FROM "RIGHT WING" ELEMENTS FOR PORTUGUESE LEADER CUNHAL. AN ATTEMPT HAS ALSO BEEN MADE TO SUGGEST THAT CUNHAL MIGHT END UP IN JAIL, AS CHILEAN COMMUNIST CORVALAN HAS, SHOULD THERE BE A "RIGHT-WING" SEIZURE OF POWER. THERE HAVE BEEN NUMEROUS SOLIDARITY MEETINGS IN THE GDR IN SUPPORT OF BOTH CUNHAL AND CORVALAN AS COMMUNIST HEROES.

5. COMMENT: THERE HAS BEEN NO MENTION, OF COURSE, IN THE EAST GERMAN PRESS OF THE REPORTED FINANCIAL AND OTHER SUPPORT BEING PROVIDED TO THE PORTUGUESE COMMUNITISTS BY THE GDR AND THE SOVIET UNION. ALLEGATIONS DO, HOWEVER, APPEAR IN THE PRESS TO THE EFFECT THAT WEST EUROPEAN SOCIALIST PARTIES AND PARTICULARLY THE WEST GERMAN SPD, HAVE MADE EMERGENCY CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE SOCIALIST PARTY IN PORTUGAL, WITH THE IMPLICATION THAT THESE FUNDS ARE DIRECTED AGAINST COMMUNIST ACTIVITIES THERE. THERE IS OCCASIONAL MENTION OF POSSIBLE CIA INVOLVEMENT IN SUPPORT OF "REACTIONARY" FORCES BOTH WITHIN THE MILITARY LEADERSHIP AND THE POLITICAL PARTIES. COOPER UNQUOTE ROBINSON

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